

MEMORIAL  
OF  
MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE OF VIRGINIA,

IN FAVOR OF

*The establishment of a line of mail steamers between the United States and the western coast of Africa.*

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FEBRUARY 11, 1851.

Ordered to be printed.

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*To the honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled:*

Your memorialists, the members of the General Assembly of Virginia, respectfully represent to your honorable bodies that they have adopted this method to express their warmest approbation of the principle of the measure now before Congress to establish a line of steamers to the western coast of Africa. The passage of such a bill, with such modifications as the wisdom of Congress may devise, will, in their opinion, eminently encourage the emigration of the free colored population from this country to Liberia—will also greatly increase our steam navy, and thus obviate the necessity of maintaining at great expense to our government, and risk of the health and lives of our officers and seamen, a squadron upon the coast, in itself inefficient in the suppression of the slave trade; and will rapidly extend the mail service and commerce of the United States. These are all objects, by universal consent, greatly to be desired, especially in a *national point of view*.

Situated as Virginia is, with a free colored population of 53,757, the presence of which is destructive both of the security and moral habits of her slaves, their removal from her limits has been for many years an important object of her domestic legislation—a legislation which, though liberal in its spirit, has been defeated in its objects by the expense of transportation to Africa; an expense too onerous for a single State to sustain. Nor can her citizens fail to feel an interest in every plan that will increase and extend the rapidly growing commerce of the United States. This plan, we are also satisfied, will introduce into Africa a legitimate, peaceful, and valuable commerce, in the place of the infamous slave trade,

and will eventually lead to the civilization of that immense, distant, and benighted continent.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

G. W. Hopkins,  
*Speaker House of Delegates.*

William H. Dennis,  
*Speaker of the Senate.*

John B. Floyd,  
*Governor of Virginia.*

Isaac C. Carrington,

John W. Speed,

James B. Dorman,

S. Patrick,

W. C. Scott,

W. W. Forbes,

C. F. Suttle,

Joseph Segar,

A. Patterson,

S. Wheeler,

E. A. Williams,

Wm. L. Jackson,

P. Guarrant,

Joseph K. Pendleton,

R. N. Hall,

Ro. L. Wright,

Wm. N. Burwell,

Robert Craig,

Ro. T. Harvey,

Wm. Kinney,

Thomas H. Daniel,

Evermont Ward,

Thomas M. Tate,

James G. West,

R. E. Scott,

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J. J. Bowcock,

E. W. Massey,

H. W. Thomas,

F. B. Welton,

Chastain White,

William H. French,

John D. Imboden,

C. J. Beirul,

A. H. McClintie,

James S. Garrison,

L. P. August,

John M. Jewett,

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Philip Pitman,

Charles W. Russell,

B. Clarke,

Charles Carter,

George T. Yerby,

E. A. Goodinger,

Peter F. Boisseau,

Baxter R. Wilson,

William F. Thompson,

J. Horner,

John C. Crump,

Lewis C. H. Finney,

Andrew Damorn,

Edward D. Kernan,

Daniel Tompkins,

H. B. Tomlin,

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Louis C. H. Finney,

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Thomas Buswell,

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John S. Calvert,  
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W. J. Robertson.

